

Midway Extension District #15
November 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Russell County 4-H Building, 6:00pm

The regular monthly meeting of the Midway Extension District board meeting was called to order by President Gaylon Walter on November 13, 2025 at 6:00pm. Board members present were Marcia Blundon, Melinda Olson, Julie Nienke, Virginia Vetter and Amy Westerman. Board members Gunnar Hays and Justin Hlaus attended via Zoom. Jessica Kootz, Clinton Laflin and Raine Bradshaw were also present.

Marcia Blundon moved to approve the agenda as presented, Amy Westerman seconded and the vote passed unanimously. Amy Westerman moved to approve the consent agenda items and Marcia Blundon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

All agents presented their monthly reports.

In unfinished business, Clinton Laflin gave update on Midway District Goals. Childcare meetings and community programs are to be held at the end of November beginning of December.

Clinton Laflin gave a website update. Branding changes will be coming in the future from the university.

In new business, Clinton Laflin gave an update on the Ellsworth building situation. No decisions have been made to move extension out of their current location in the courthouse. If they decide to have extension vacate the building, they must give one year notice. Laflin is trying to set up a new meeting with commissioners in January to get next steps. Laflin encourages board to stay on top of Ellsworth County clerk and commissioners with this situation. If extension remains in building, there is a high potential for an increase in rent.

Tim Hays gave the Midway District Shooting Sports Annual Report. Josie and Trent Norris gave a junior instructors report. Trent is a certified archery junior instructor. Midway did their first BB match in December 2024 and a small board .22 match over the summer. Trent is excited to get more kids in the program and to assist with new members first shot fundamentals. Josie is a certified rifle and pistol junior instructor. This past year they had 12 members and 7 were in the first year. 4 of those members joined 4-H for the opportunity to be in shooting sports. Josie's responsibilities this year was demonstrating different shooting positions and organizing fun shoots for the members. Virginia Vetter moved to accept the Midway District Shooting Sports reports, Marcia Blundon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Clinton Laflin gave the Kids Ag Day Review. Another great year out at Dlabal's farm ringing in the 25th year of holding it there.

Clinton Laflin reviewed leave for the 2025 Christmas and New Year's. Agents receive December 25th – January 1st off from the university. Amy Westerman moved to extend leave to the rest of Midway District staff for December 25th – January 1st without having to use personal leave days. Marcia Blundon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Clinton Laflin presented a 2026 Holiday Schedule to the board. Marcia Blundon moved to approve the holiday schedule as presented. Virginia Vetter seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Clinton Laflin discussed the state of the old OP computers from both Ellsworth and Russell offices. Melinda Olson moved to have Kansas State IT personnel wipe both computers clean and to sell the Ellsworth OP computer to Rutika for \$100, Russell's computer will just be recycled by Kansas State. Julie Nienke seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Raine Bradshaw presented the 4-H club reports for board approval. Marcia Blundon moved to approve all clubs in Ellsworth and Russell counties, Russell County Fair Council, Russell County Jr Leaders and Ellsworth and Russell Shooting Sports. Melinda Olson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Raine Bradshaw presented 4-H volunteers that need board approval. Virginia Vetter moved to approve Raine Bradshaw, Steven Bradshaw, Mandy Brungardt, Kevin Eickhoff, Sarah Maske, Conner Miller, Jenna Miller, Carrie Raymer, Laura Barta, Camille Beckham, Keith Bruning, Pamela Hays, Tim Hays, Matt Jundt, Chris Kirmer, Janna Nelson, Chuck Norris, Tobina Norris, Paula Svaty-Gray as 4-H volunteers. Julie Nienke seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Clinton Laflin discussed his resignation with the board. He enjoyed working in the district and with staff. He is excited to continue working in KSRE closer to his hometown. Amy Westerman moved to accept his resignation. Marcia Blundon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Clinton Laflin discussed the process of hiring a new agent. The hiring process will be slow due to holiday and university standards. Recommended to hire an agent that is primarily the director with an emphasis in a field. Julie Nienke moved to start the hiring process for a director with livestock emphasis. Marcia Blundon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Marcia Blundon moved to enter executive session with board members and Clinton Laflin to discuss non-elected personnel for 30 minutes starting at 7:35pm. Julie Nienke seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Executive session was exited at 8:05pm. Melinda Olson moved to extend executive session for 20 minutes starting at 8:05pm. Amy Westerman seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Executive session was exited at 8:25pm. Amy Westerman moved to extend executive session by 15 minutes starting at 8:26pm. Marcia Blundon seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Executive session was exited at 8:38pm.

Melinda Olson moved that Craig Dinkel will receive a 3.2% increase in salary beginning January 1, 2026. Marcia Blundon moved and the motion passed unanimously.

Amy Westerman moved that Michelle Wilson will receive a stipend of \$350 per month starting her next pay period upon a positive 90 day review. Virginia Vetter seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Melinda Olson moved to adjourn the meeting and Marcia Blundon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Gaylon Walter, President

Amy Westerman, Secretary